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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A REPORT BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY PREPARED IN COORDINATION WITH THE UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

Wesley S. Noyes, Jr., Editor
Supervisor, Economic Analysis and Reports

April 86-4

SUMMARY: Total unemployment decreased by 1,830 from March dropping from 20,660 unemployed to 18,830. The unemployment rate dropped to 3.4 percent from 3.8 percent. A year ago there were 22,840 unemployed and an unemployment rate of 4.4 percent. Nationally, the unemployment rate was 7.0 percent in April, 7.5 percent in March and 7.1 percent a year ago. Based on the latest data available by state, (March 1986) New Hampshire has had the lowest unemployment rate of any state for the past eight consecutive months.

All areas except Berlin and Littleton experienced unemployment decreases in April. Employment losses occurred in manufacturing as scattered layoffs were reported in electrical products, apparel, paper and allied products, as well as in footwear and rubber and plastic products. In the northern part of the state, layoffs occurred in logging operations due to the "mud season" and layoffs in trade and services were reported as a result of the end of the skiing season. The Concord and Claremont areas tied for the lowest unemployment rate in the state with 2.1 percent unemployed. The highest unemployment rates were 6.6 percent in the Littleton area and 6.2 percent in the Berlin area. Compared to a year ago, all areas experienced unemployment decreases with the largest decrease of 1,040 occurring in the Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester NH - ME MSA. Overall, most of the employment growth in the past year has been concentrated in construction and in trade and services. Manufacturing employment has slowed during the past year as layoffs have occurred particularly in electrical products and rubber and plastic products.

Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 6,600 from March and is up 26,300 over a year ago. Manufacturing is down 150 from last month and 2,000 from last year, while nonmanufacturing is up 6,750 from March and 28,300 from a year ago. Services is up 8,800, construction 7,650 and trade 6,950.

MANCHESTER ECONOMIC CONDITIONS: Total unemployment decreased by 760 from March as the rate dropped from 3.7 to 2.8 percent. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 850 from March and by 2,450 from a year ago. While manufacturing is down 950, nonmanufacturing is up 3,400. Construction has increased 1,050 from last year, services 850, and trade 750.

NASHUA ECONOMIC CONDITIONS: Total unemployment decreased by 260 from March as the rate went from 3.6 to 3.3 percent. A year ago the rate was 3.5 percent. Nonagricultural wage and salary employment increased by 250 from March as manufacturing was up 100 and nonmanufacturing 150. Compared to a year ago, nonagricultural employment has increased 650 as manufacturing is down 650 while nonmanufacturing is up 1,300. Machinery and electrical products is down 500 from last year while services is up 600.

New Hampshire Labor Force, Total Employment and Unemployment and Nonagricultural
Wage and Salary Employment as of the Middle of the Month

Industry	State					Manchester MSA***					Nashua PMSA				
	Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous		Number of Workers			Numerical Change From Previous	
	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985	Month	Year	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985	Month	Year	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985	Month	Year
1. Civilian labor force*	559,600	548,120	523,530	11,480	36,070	83,430	82,510	79,120	920	4,310	89,840	89,410	87,930	430	1,910
2. Unemployment	18,830	20,660	22,840	- 1,830	- 4,010	2,300	3,060	2,540	-760	-240	2,960	3,220	3,250	-260	-90
Percent of labor force	3.4	3.8	4.4	xxx	xxx	2.8	3.7	3.2	xxx	xxx	3.3	3.6	3.5	xxx	xxx
3. Employment total	540,770	527,460	500,690	13,310	40,080	81,130	79,450	76,580	1,680	4,550	86,880	86,190	84,880	690	2,000
4. Persons involved in labor disputes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nonagri. wage & salary**	480,200	473,600	453,900	6,600	26,300	81,200	80,350	78,750	850	2,450	83,600	83,350	82,950	250	650
Manufacturing	121,250	121,400	123,250	-150	-2,000	14,550	14,700	15,500	-150	-950	36,800	36,700	37,450	100	-650
Durable goods	83,700	83,500	84,450	200	-750	9,000	9,050	9,150	-50	-150	30,550	30,500	31,050	50	-500
Lumber & wood prods.	5,750	5,700	5,550	50	200										
Furniture & fixtures	1,700	1,750	1,600	-50	100										
Stone & clay prods.	3,000	3,000	3,000	0	0										
Primary metal prods.	4,450	4,300	4,300	150	150										
Fabricated metal prods.	7,000	7,000	7,150	0	-150				Machinery And Electrical Products Combined						
Machinery (exc. elec.)	25,800	25,800	25,900	0	-100										
Electrical prods.	24,500	24,600	26,100	-100	-1,600	5,350	5,450	5,850	-100	-500	23,150	23,100	23,650	50	-500
Miscellaneous prods.	2,200	2,200	2,200	0	0										
Other durables	9,300	9,150	8,650	150	650	3,650	3,600	3,300	50	350	7,400	7,400	7,400	0	0
Nondurable goods	37,550	37,900	38,800	-350	-1,250	5,550	5,650	6,350	-100	-800	6,250	6,200	6,400	50	-150
Food & kindred prods.	3,250	3,250	3,000	0	250										
Textile mill prods.	3,650	3,650	3,800	0	-150										
Apparel	2,450	2,550	2,550	-100	-100	1,450	1,500	1,750	-50	-300					
Paper & allied prods.	5,500	5,600	5,650	-100	-150										
Print., pub. & allied	7,100	7,050	7,350	50	-250										
Leather & lea. prods.	5,300	5,350	5,300	-50	0										
Other nondurables	10,300	10,450	11,150	-150	-850	4,100	4,150	4,600	-50	-500					
Nonmanufacturing	358,950	352,200	330,650	6,750	28,300	66,650	65,650	63,250	1,000	3,400	46,800	46,650	45,500	150	1,300
Construction (inc. min.)	36,000	32,600	28,350	3,400	7,650	5,350	5,050	4,300	300	1,050	3,750	3,700	3,650	50	100
Trans., comm. & util.	15,450	15,400	15,300	50	150	4,850	4,850	4,600	0	250	2,200	2,200	2,100	0	100
Trade	114,850	112,600	107,900	2,250	6,950	21,600	21,300	20,850	300	750	16,800	16,950	16,950	-150	-150
Fin., ins. & real estate	27,050	26,500	24,750	550	2,300	7,300	7,200	6,950	100	350	2,750	2,700	2,600	50	150
Service industry & other	103,550	103,050	94,750	500	8,800	19,700	19,400	18,850	300	850	15,150	14,950	14,550	200	600
Government	62,050	62,050	59,600	0	2,450	7,850	7,850	7,700	0	150	6,150	6,150	5,650	0	500
Federal	8,150	8,100	7,650	50	500	2,400	2,400	2,300	0	100	750	750	800	0	-50
State	16,900	16,950	16,650	-50	250	850	850	850	0	0	250	250	200	0	50
Local	37,000	37,000	35,300	0	1,700	4,600	4,600	4,550	0	50	5,150	5,150	4,650	0	500

* By place of residence

** By place of establishment
Benchmark March 1985

*** Not Validated By The Bureau Of Labor Statistics

Labor Disputes:

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY

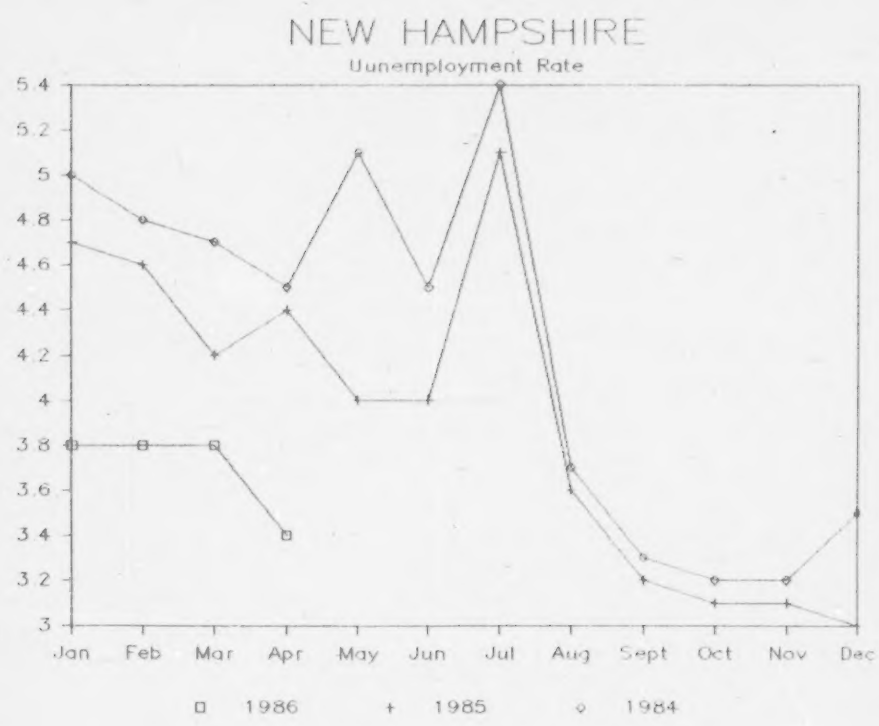
Area	Unemployment*						Numerical Change From Previous		Civilian Labor Force			Numerical Change From Previous	
	April 1986		March 1986		April 1985				April	March	April		
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Month	Year	1986	1986	1985	Month	Year
UNITED STATES**	8,115	7.0	8,667	7.5	8,150	7.1	-552	-35	116,316	116,309	114,325	7	1,991
NEW HAMPSHIRE	18,830	3.4	20,660	3.8	22,840	4.4	-1,830	-4,010	559,600	548,120	523,530	11,480	36,070
BERLIN LMA	1,560	6.2	1,330	5.3	1,740	7.7	230	-180	25,080	25,260	22,670	-180	2,410
CLARFMONT LMA	800	2.1	850	2.3	1,190	3.4	-50	-390	38,080	37,360	35,130	720	2,950
CONCORD LMA	1,080	2.1	1,350	2.7	1,510	3.2	-270	-430	51,370	49,570	46,900	1,800	4,470
KEENE LMA	1,040	2.5	1,200	3.0	1,400	3.7	-160	-360	41,160	40,080	37,600	1,080	3,560
LACONIA LMA	1,270	2.6	1,420	3.0	1,970	4.3	-150	-700	49,700	47,320	45,760	2,380	3,940
LITTLETON LMA	1,130	6.6	910	5.3	1,260	8.2	220	-130	17,130	17,220	15,340	-90	1,790
MANCHESTER MSA	2,300	2.8	3,060	3.7	2,540	3.2	-760	-240	83,430	82,510	79,120	920	4,310
NASHUA PMSA	2,960	3.3	3,220	3.6	3,050	3.5	-260	-90	89,840	89,410	87,930	430	1,910
N.H. PORTION LAWRENCE-HAVERHILL MA. PMSA***	2,580	5.8	2,920	6.6	2,710	6.5	-340	-130	44,380	44,290	41,530	90	2,850
PORTSMOUTH-DOVER-ROCHESTER N.H.-ME.	3,650	2.9	3,950	3.3	4,690	4.0	-300	-1,040	124,860	120,580	116,750	4,280	8,110
UNATTACHED ESTIMATING AREA****	630	3.5	750	4.4	960	5.8	-120	-330	17,780	16,960	16,420	820	1,360
N.H. PORTION LOWELL MA. PMSA	230	4.7	260	5.5	250	5.4	-30	-20	4,860	4,770	4,650	90	210
County													
BELKNAP	710	2.8	750	3.1	1,130	4.8	-40	-420	25,540	24,300	23,580	1,240	1,960
CARROLL	460	2.7	430	2.6	710	4.6	30	-250	16,900	16,570	15,460	330	1,440
CHESHIRE	930	2.5	1,090	3.0	1,300	3.9	-160	-370	36,820	35,870	33,680	950	3,140
COOS	1,700	8.0	1,450	6.8	1,640	8.7	250	60	21,150	21,250	18,910	-100	2,240
GRAFTON	1,290	3.4	1,170	3.1	1,710	4.9	120	-420	37,990	37,290	34,700	700	3,290
HILLSBOROUGH	5,420	3.1	6,300	3.7	5,910	3.5	-880	-490	173,880	171,900	166,900	1,980	6,980
MERRIMACK	1,230	2.0	1,770	3.0	1,870	3.4	-540	-640	60,440	58,660	55,650	1,780	4,790
ROCKINGHAM	4,730	4.2	5,180	4.7	4,870	4.7	-450	-140	112,050	109,750	104,410	2,300	7,640
STRAFFORD	1,900	3.4	2,040	3.8	3,000	5.8	-140	-1,100	55,100	53,180	52,000	1,920	3,100
SULLIVAN	460	2.3	480	2.5	710	3.9	-20	-250	19,730	19,350	18,250	380	1,480

* Based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 Step Method" handbook adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.

** In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.

*** New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.

**** Includes twenty towns previously in either Dover, Portsmouth, Manchester or Nashua LMAS.



AREA DEFINITIONS

Manchester MSA includes the city of Manchester and towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, Hooksett.

Nashua PMSA is located in the southern section of Hillsborough County and includes the City of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Greenville, Hollis, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Item	1986	1985	1984	1983
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers				
Current month - April	320.4			
Percent change from year ago	1.2			
Year average		318.5	307.6	297.4
Percent increase each year		3.5	3.4	3.0
All Urban Consumers				
Current month - April	325.3			
Percent change from year ago	1.6			
Year average		322.2	311.1	298.4
Percent increase each year		3.6	4.3	3.2

FIRMS BY SIZE -- UNIT, EMPLOYEES AND WAGES -- AUGUST 1985
Department of Employment Security
Economic Analysis & Reports,

Based on Unemployment Compensation Coverage

All Industries — 1972 SIC

Employee-size grouping	Units		Employees		Total Wages Third quarter 1985	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Amount	Percent
Total	26,368	100.0	413,978	100.0	$1,708,481,434	100.0
1 - 3	11,309	42.88	20,218	4.88	82,337,185	4.81
4	2,068	7.84	8,272	1.99	29,423,013	1.72
5	1,684	6.38	8,420	2.03	29,993,401	1.75
6	1,270	4.81	7,620	1.84	26,380,604	1.54
7	999	3.78	6,993	1.68	24,277,893	1.42
8	819	3.10	6,552	1.58	23,344,515	1.36
9	654	2.48	5,886	1.42	20,772,088	1.21
10 - 19	3,243	12.29	43,597	10.53	155,805,751	9.11
20 - 49	2,123	8.05	63,824	15.41	229,919,175	13.45
50 - 99	753	2.85	51,293	12.39	196,348,161	11.49
100 - 249	403	1.52	60,792	14.68	237,628,871	13.90
250 - 499	105	0.39	35,071	8.47	139,497,483	8.16
500 - 999	54	0.20	39,221	9.47	165,215,238	9.67
1,000 & over	26	0.09	56,219	13.58	343,707,669	20.11
No employment in August and wages in quarter	858	3.25			3,830,381	0.22

Note: Total Wages may not add due to rounding.
Percents do not add due to rounding.

Comments: Employment increased 4.9 percent or 19,214 workers from August 1984. New Hampshire continued to experience a strong and expanding economy during the report period. Manufacturing lost 4,301 jobs or 3.4 percent from August 1984, and in August 1985 accounted for 121,082 workers or 29.2 percent of all employed. Nonmanufacturing gained 23,515 workers and accounted for 70.8 percent of all workers. Construction posted a very significant gain of 31.4 percent or 8,436 jobs. Trade increased by 4.4 percent or 4,854 jobs, and services was up 8.3 percent or 7,775 jobs.

Firms employing less than 100 workers accounted for 53.8 percent of all workers and 94.5 percent of all firms. Seven out of every ten firms in New Hampshire employ less than ten workers.

Total wages paid of $1,708,481,434 in the third quarter of 1985 represented a 13.1 percent gain from the same period a year ago. Manufacturing represented 36.5 percent of the total private industry wages while trade and services combined accounted for 41.2 percent. Manufacturing wages increased 4.0 percent and nonmanufacturing wages 19.1 percent during the report period.

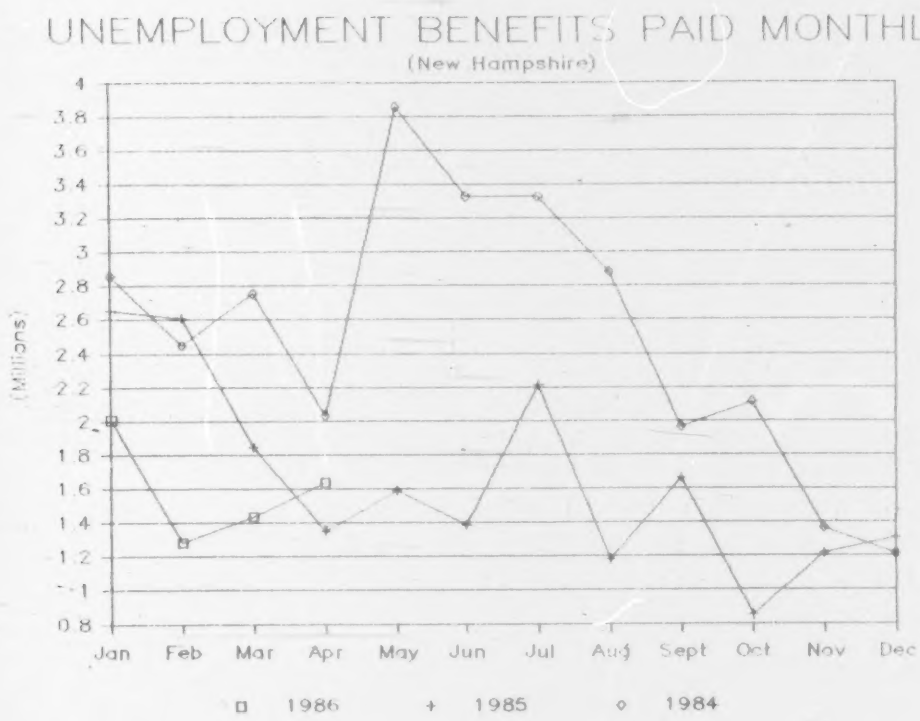
Weekly Claims Filed During
Classified by Local Office

Area	Unemployment Compensation		U.C. State Workers (Only)		UC Local Government		Servicemen UCX (Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No UI	
	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.	Int.	Cont.	Init.	Cont.
All Offices	4,037	14,947	6	41	8	21	35	74	46	56
Berlin	328	1,543	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	1
Claremont	226	431	1	0	1	11	0	0	0	0
Concord	145	677	1	3	2	2	1	5	2	2
Conway	83	270	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	5
Dover	580	1,665	2	9	2	3	5	19	13	16
Keene	149	683	0	1	1	1	1	6	0	2
Laconia	268	842	0	4	0	0	4	3	0	0
Lebanon	54	225	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0
Littleton	253	1,010	1	9	2	1	3	5	1	3
Manchester	615	2,781	1	3	0	0	2	4	3	4
Nashua	364	1,385	0	0	0	2	8	3	1	5
Portsmouth	430	1,690	0	0	0	0	3	22	18	5
Salem	153	477	0	5	0	0	5	1	0	0
Liable Interstate	389	1,268	0	1	0	1	0	2	8	13

The average payment for a week of total unemployment was $112.60

Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance End of Month

$ 125,742,404.99



Net contributions received during month:

$ 6,831,538.99

Net benefits paid during month:

$ 1,635,069.49

Interest Received:

0

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

New Hampshire

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985
All manufacturing	$351.95	$359.86	$335.76	40.5	40.8	40.6	$8.69	$8.82	$8.27
Durable goods	369.33	373.19	349.32	40.9	41.1	41.0	9.03	9.08	8.52
Lumber & wood prods.	260.04	258.72	255.18	39.4	38.5	38.9	6.60	6.72	6.56
Furniture & fixtures	288.23	276.19	267.54	41.0	39.4	39.0	7.03	7.01	6.86
Stone & clay prods.	345.65	336.15	342.59	41.1	40.5	42.4	8.41	8.30	8.08
Primary metal prods.	401.04	394.57	371.18	42.8	42.2	41.8	9.37	9.35	8.88
Fab. metal prods.	339.83	339.08	310.85	39.7	39.2	39.7	8.56	8.65	7.83
Mach. (exc. elec.)	409.40	409.09	385.85	43.6	43.8	44.3	9.39	9.34	8.71
Electrical prods.	386.28	407.81	360.36	38.9	40.7	39.0	9.93	10.02	9.24
Miscellaneous prods.	266.19	252.31	286.37	38.3	36.2	42.3	6.95	6.97	6.77
Other durables	374.26	375.50	357.35	41.4	41.4	40.7	9.04	9.07	8.78
Nondurable goods	318.40	333.66	308.47	39.9	40.2	39.7	7.98	8.30	7.77
Food & kindred prods.	395.28	383.11	358.93	40.5	40.2	39.4	9.76	9.53	9.11
Textile mill prods.	306.29	302.63	267.63	41.9	41.4	39.3	7.31	7.31	6.81
Apparel	219.78	220.52	209.35	37.0	37.0	36.6	5.94	5.96	5.72
Paper & allied prods.	464.52	461.68	439.44	47.4	47.4	47.1	9.80	9.74	9.33
Print., pub. & allied	350.74	363.26	306.61	38.5	39.7	37.9	9.11	9.15	8.09
Leather & lea. prods.	185.08	189.50	190.70	32.3	33.6	34.8	5.73	5.64	5.48
Footwear	166.24	171.93	176.80	30.9	32.5	34.0	5.38	5.29	5.20
Other nondurables	365.03	364.97	334.97	41.2	41.1	40.8	8.86	8.88	8.21

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 58%

Total Production Workers: 83,450

Firms Reporting: 371

Manchester MSA*

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985
All manufacturing	$352.96	$350.61	$321.60	40.2	40.3	40.2	$8.78	$8.70	$8.00
Durable goods	366.56	358.16	349.11	39.5	39.1	40.5	9.28	9.16	8.62
Mach. & elec. prods.	368.34	367.72	348.53	40.3	40.1	40.2	9.14	9.17	8.67
Other durables	364.21	345.49	350.96	38.5	37.8	41.0	9.46	9.14	8.56
Nondurable goods	329.57	340.00	283.06	41.3	42.5	39.7	7.98	8.00	7.13
Textiles & apparel	301.44	299.59	264.53	42.1	41.9	39.6	7.16	7.15	6.68
Other nondurables	340.71	355.26	290.14	41.0	42.7	39.8	8.31	8.32	7.29

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 60%

Total Production Workers: 10,700

Firms Reporting: 45

* Not Validated By The Bureau Of Labor Statistics

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985	Apr. 1986	Mar. 1986	Apr. 1985
All manufacturing	$427.18	$446.27	$395.22	40.8	42.3	40.4	$10.47	$10.55	$9.79
Durable goods	432.78	457.74	402.70	41.1	42.7	40.8	10.53	10.72	9.87
Mach. & elec. prods.	467.78	509.68	431.07	40.5	43.6	40.4	11.55	11.69	10.67
Other durables	354.88	339.82	331.93	42.5	40.6	41.7	8.35	8.37	7.96
Nondurable goods	403.13	399.10	368.16	39.6	40.6	39.0	10.18	9.83	9.44

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 62%

Total Production Workers: 20,450

Firms Reporting: 72

Number of Active Applicants and Female Applicants by Major Occupational Category
Period Ending April 30, 1986

	NEW HAMPSHIRE		MANCHESTER		NASHUA	
	Total	Female	Total	Female	Total	Female
TOTAL	11,082	5,073	2,104	998	1,674	716
Prof., Tech. (00-16)						
Managerial (18,19)	1,559	559	215	79	324	108
Clerical (20-24)	1,922	1,615	330	258	335	282
Sales (25-29)	528	245	113	47	69	38
Services (3)	1,808	1,104	316	176	194	115
Farm (4)	157	25	13	2	9	2
Processing (5)	193	58	43	11	29	14
Machine Trade (6)	991	334	206	85	118	35
Benchwork (7)	1,142	785	404	256	119	86
Structural (8)	1,686	111	248	32	348	19
Miscellaneous (9)	1,066	223	211	49	127	16
Unclassified	30	14	5	3	2	1

Employment Service Activity

ITEM	April 1986	March 1986	July 1, 1985 to April 30, 1986
Total applicants for employment	2,681	2,681	18,089
Total nonagricultural job openings received	2,722	2,114	24,426
Job openings unfilled end of month	2,384	1,668	xxx
Placements - nonagricultural & agricultural	1,032	956	12,130